What is claimed:

1.   A communication control unit for facilitating a communication conference between a plurality of real time communication devices, the control unit comprising:

5   a local network interface f or exchanging l ocal network data over a p acket switched network with each of the plurality of real time communication devices;

means for receiving an identification of each of a plurality of real time communication devices selected as conference participants;

means for establishing a plurality of real time audio conference channels,

10   each channel between the control unit and a conference participant, each channel for receiving streaming audio data from the conference participant and for providing conference mix streaming audio to each participant;

means for generating at least one conference mix signal comprising a mix of the streaming audio data from at least two participants.

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2.   The communication control unit of claim 1, wherein the means for establishing a real time audio channel with each of the conference participants comprises means for p roviding session signaling to each session p articipant and means for negotiating the set up of a real time audio channel with a conference

20   participant in response to the conference participant responding to the session signaling.

3.   The communication control unit of claim 1, further comprising:

an address book file storing address book content, the address book content

25   comprising an identification of each of a plurality of contacts;

means for providing the address book content to one of the real time communication devices in response to the real time communication device providing an indication of a request to establish a communication conference; and

the m eans f or receiving an i dentification o f each of a plurality o f real t ime

30   communication devices selected a s conference p articipants comprises means for receiving an indication of subscriber selection of contacts from the address book

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content.

4.   The communication control unit of claim 3, wherein the means for providing the address book content to one of the real time communication devices comprises
5   means for providing a conference initiation document for display on the real time communication device, the conference initiation document comprising the address book content in association with a display template adapted for operator selection of contacts form the address book content.

10   5.   The communication control unit of claim 4, wherein the conference initiation document comprises means for subscriber selection of contacts, a conference initiation control, and means for providing identification of the selected contacts to the control unit in response to subscriber activation of the conference initiation control.
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6.   The communication control unit of claim 5, wherein:
the means for establishing a real time communication channel with each of the plurality of conference participants further provides for receiving motion video data from at least one conference participant and providing motion video data to at
20   least a second conference participant; and
further comprising means for providing a video display document to the second conference participant for display on the second conference participant, the video display document comprising a frame for display of the motion video data.

25   7.   The communication control unit of claim 1, further comprising:
means for providing a main menu document for display on one real time communication device, the main menu document comprising a control for subscriber s election of a t least o ne messaging s ervice, a control for s election of initiating a communication conference, and means for providing a request to
30   establish a conference session to the control unit in response to subscriber activation of the control for selection of initiating a communication conference.

8.   The communication control unit of claim 7, further comprising:

an address book file storing address book content, the address book content comprising an identification of each of a plurality of contacts;

5   means for providing the address book content to one of the real time communication device in response to receipt of the request to establish a communication conference;

the m eans f or receiving an i dentification o f each of a plurality o f real t ime communication devices selected a s conference p articipants comprises means for

10   receiving an indication of subscriber selection of contacts from the address book content.

9.   The communication control unit of claim 8, wherein the means for providing the address book content to one of the real time communication devices comprises

15   means for providing a conference initiation document for display on the real time communication device, the conference initiation document comprising the address book content in association with a display template adapted for operator selection of conference session participants.

20   10.   The communication control unit of claim 9, wherein the conference initiation document comprises means for subscriber selection of contacts, a conference initiation control, and means for providing identification of the selected contacts to the control unit in response to subscriber activation of the conference initiation control.

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11.   The communication control unit of claim 10, wherein:

the means for establishing a real time communication channel with each of the plurality of conference participants further provides for receiving motion video data from at least one conference participant and providing motion video data to at

30   least a second conference participant; and

further comprising means for providing a video display document to the

second conference participant for display on the second conference participant, the video display document comprising a frame for display of the motion video data.

12.   A method for facilitating a communication conference between a plurality of real time communication devices, the method operating in a control unit and comprising:

communicating with each of a the real time communication devices over a packet switched network interconnecting the control unit and each of the real time communication devices;

receiving an identification of each of a plurality of real time communication devices selected as conference participants;

establishing a plurality of real time audio conference channels, each channel between the control unit and a conference participants, each real time audio conference channel for receiving streaming audio data from the conference participant and for providing a conference mix streaming audio data to the participant;

generating conference mix streaming audio data from streaming audio data received from at least two participants.

13.   The method of claim 12, wherein the step of establishing a plurality of real time audio channels comprises:

providing session signaling to each session participant; and

negotiating set up of a real time audio channel with a conference participant in response to the conference participant responding to the session signaling.

14.   The method of claim 12, further comprising:

obtaining address book content from an address book file, the address book content comprising an identification of each of a plurality of contacts;

providing the address book content to one of the real time communication devices in response to the real time communication device providing an indication of a request to establish a communication conference; and

the step of receiving an identification of each of a plurality of real time communication devices selected as conference participants comprises receiving an indication of subscriber selection of contacts from the address book content.

5   15.   The method of claim 14, wherein the step of providing the address book content to one of the real time communication devices comprises providing a conference initiation document for display on the real time communication device, the conference initiation document comprising the address book content in association with a display template adapted for operator selection of contacts form 10   the address book content.

16.   The method of claim 15, wherein the step of providing a conference initiation document comprises providing script providing for:

subscriber selection of contacts,

15   a conference initiation control, and

identification of the selected contacts to the control unit in response to subscriber activation of the conference initiation control.

17.   The method of claim 16, wherein:

20   the step of establishing a plurality of real time audio conference channels further comprises:

establishing a real time communication channel with at least one conference participant for receiving motion video data from the at least one conference participant and providing motion video data to at least a second conference 25   participant; and

establishing a real time communication channel with at least on other conference participant for providing a representation of the motion video data to the at least one other conference participant.

30   18.   The method of claim 12, further comprising:

providing a main menu document for display on one real time

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communication device, the main menu document comprising a control for subscriber s election of at least one messaging service, a control for selection of initiating a communication conference, and means for providing a request to establish a conference session to the control unit in response to subscriber

5 activation of the control for selection of initiating a communication conference.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

obtaining address book content from an address book file, the address book content comprising an identification of each of a plurality of contacts;

10 providing the address book content to the request to establish a conference session; and

the step of receiving an identification of each of a plurality of real time communication devices selected as conference participants comprises receiving an indication of subscriber selection of contacts from the address book content.

15 an address book file storing address book content, the address book content comprising an identification of each of a plurality of contacts;

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the wherein the step of providing the address book content to one of the real time communication devices comprises

20 providing a conference initiation document for display on the real time communication device, the conference initiation document comprising the address book content in association with a display template adapted for operator selection of contacts form the address book content.

25 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of providing a conference initiation document comprises providing script providing for:

subscriber selection of contacts,

a conference initiation control, and

identification of the selected contacts to the control unit in response to

30 subscriber activation of the conference initiation control.

22.   The method of claim 21, wherein:

the step of establishing a plurality of real time audio conference channels further comprises:

establishing a real time communication channel with at least one conference
5   participant for receiving motion video data from the at least one conference participant and providing motion video data to at least a second conference participant; and

establishing a real time communication channel with at least on other conference participant for providing a representation of the motion video data to the
10   at least one other conference participant.

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